

ALL-AREA BOYS GOLF TEAM

GOLFER OF THE YEAR **RICHARD DONEGAN**

All-Area
First Team



Stefano Butti



Jeremy Feil



Jake Leffew



Payton Taylor



David Torres



Dominick Vennari

STEFANO BUTTI
Jensen Beach, sophomore
Stats: Averaged 37.9 strokes per nine holes, shot 73 in the District 18-2A tournament, shot a 74 in the Region 6-2A tournament

JEREMY FEIL
Lincoln Park junior
Stats: Averaged 37.9 strokes per nine holes, shot 79 in the Region 7-1A tournament

JAKE LEFFEW
Vero Beach freshman
Stats: Averaged 36.7 strokes per nine holes, shot 73 in the District 18-2A tournament (medalist), shot a 69 in the Region 6-2A tournament (medalist), shot a 156 in the Class 2A tournament (tied for 17th)

PAYTON TAYLOR
Vero Beach sophomore
Stats: Averaged 36.8 strokes per nine holes, shot 79 in the District 18-2A tournament, shot a 71 in the Region 6-2A tournament, shot a 164 in the Class 2A tournament (tied for 47th)

DAVID TORRES
John Carroll senior
Stats: Averaged 37.5 strokes per nine holes, shot 77 in the District 19-1A tournament, shot 74 in the Region 7-1A tournament, shot a 160 at the Class 1A tournament (tied for 67th)

DOMINICK VENNARI
Martin County senior
Stats: Averaged 36.0 strokes per nine holes, shot 78 in the District 18-2A tournament

The Team

The 2011 Boys Golf Team was compiled by Jon Santucci.



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ALEX BOERNER/TREASURE COAST NEWSPAPERS

Okeechobee High School's Richard Donegan is the Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers 2011 Boys Golfer of the Year.

A season of excellence

Okeechobee's Richard Donegan's dedication and hard work leads to a state championship

By Jon Santucci
Special to Treasure Coast Newspapers

OKEECHOBEE — Shortly after finishing 18th in the state tournament in 2010, Richard Donegan told Okeechobee boys golf coach Kenny Buckner he wanted to finish in the top 10 in 2011.

It appears Donegan underestimated himself.

The Brahman senior won the FHSAA Class 2A tournament at the Mission Inn Resort & Club at Howey-in-the-Hills in November and is the Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers All-Area Boys Golfer of the Year.

"It took a month, but it finally has sunk in," Donegan said. "It was nice to be good that one weekend and, hopefully, it means a lot more success in the future."

Donegan's season was much better than just the state tournament. He averaged an under-par 35.6 strokes per nine holes during the regular season, finished third at the District 18-2A tournament and was third in the Region 6-2A tournament.

Buckner said Donegan committed himself to working hard as soon as last year ended. Donegan spent plenty of time at the PGA Center for Golf and Learning with fitness coach David Donatucci and swing coach Michael Malizia. He also got advice from 2010 All-Area Co-Golfers of the Year Will Davenport (Martin County) and James Monnerville (Vero Beach).

Donegan approached the sea-

Golfer of the Year



Richard Donegan

Okeechobee senior

Stats: Won Class 2A state tournament with an even-par 144. He shot a 3-under-par 69 on the final day of the tournament to claim the title. Finished third in the District 18-2A tournament and third at the Region 6-2A tournament. Donegan averaged 35.6 strokes per nine holes in the regular season.

Coach Kenny Buckner: "Richard is proof that if you work hard at it, good things will happen. He started working and played in tournaments in the summer and even during the season on the weekend. He worked his tail off and you see what happened."

NO. 2 TO REACH NO. 1

- Donegan became just the second Treasure Coast boys golfer to win a state championship.
- The other was Sal Spallone of St. Edward's. Spallone shot 71-70—141 to win Class 4A in 1996.
- Three players have finished as state runner-up: Spallone in Class 4A in 1995 (74-76—150), Lincoln Park's Justin Dorward in Class 1A in 2007 (70-73—143) and Martin County's Andrew Goodman (70-71—141) in Class 2A in 2009.

son in an effort to peak at the end.

After the first day of the state tournament, where he shot a 3-over-par 75, Donegan found himself three shots back of the leader. A closer inspection of his round shows the improvement Donegan made.

"The biggest improvement was the mental aspect of the game — how to handle success and failure," Buckner said. "On the first day, he bogeyed like five holes in row. As a junior, he might have bogeyed every hole after that.

"He knew what he did wrong and he worked on it. He just ma-

tured that way. It was nice to see."

Donegan came out the second day and shot a 3-under-par 69. He birdied the 10th hole and took the lead with a par on the 11th hole.

"I was trying to focus on making no unnecessary errors, no double-bogeys or three-putts," Donegan said. "I read the speed of greens, so once I had the speed down, I tried to stay away from the big numbers. The worst I made was a bogey and I didn't three-putt once at state.

"I played with the winner last year and saw how he reacted. I felt like I was under a lot

Coach of the Year



Ron Gielow

School: Vero Beach
Years with team: 11
This season: Vero Beach finished tied

for seventh in the Class 2A tournament. The Fighting Indians won the Region 6-2A tournament and were second in the District 18-2A tournament. Vero Beach went 18-0-1 in the regular season.

Quotable: "Going into the season, we had a lot of question marks. We had a lot of young kids with tournament experience, but with two freshmen and two sophomore starters, we had some doubts. But they played well all year. They really worked as a team. They were very, very close. They relied on each other and helped each other. It was probably the hardest working group of kids I've ever had."

of pressure because you're not just playing for yourself. You're playing for your city and school. I took a lot from that, because I got to see how other guys have handled it.

"Learning from better players really helped me get to that next level. Hopefully, I can continue to learn and grow."

“It took a month, but it finally has sunk in. It was nice to be good that one weekend and, hopefully, it means a lot more success in the future.”

Richard Donegan, Boys Golfer of the Year

Honorable Mention

MATT GLASS
Jensen Beach senior

DYLAN KOSTER
Sebastian River senior

JAKE MOBERLY
St. Lucie West Centennial senior

BRADLEE PUTZ
Lincoln Park junior

DONNIE SMITH
Martin County senior

HARLAN SWIFT
St. Edward's senior

EVAN GRILLS

South Fork junior

MATT LINDAHL
Community Christian freshman

GRANT MORTELL
Pine School senior

ALEX SCHNEIDER
Port St. Lucie junior

LIAM SNYDER
Jensen Beach junior

COLE THOMPSON
Sebastian River junior

FREDRIK GUSTAFSSON
Vero Beach junior

All-Area Schedule

FRIDAY
Girls Golf

SATURDAY
Boys Golf

SUNDAY
Girls Swimming & Diving

MONDAY
Boys Swimming & Diving

TUESDAY
Girls Cross Country

WEDNESDAY
Boys Cross Country

THURSDAY
Girls Bowling

DEC. 23
Boys Bowling

DEC. 24
Volleyball

DEC. 26
Football